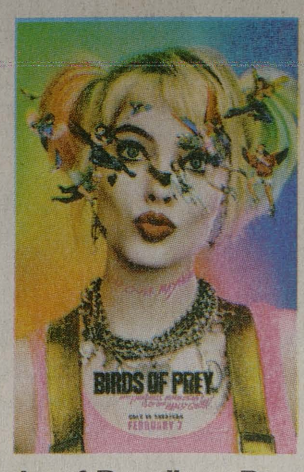
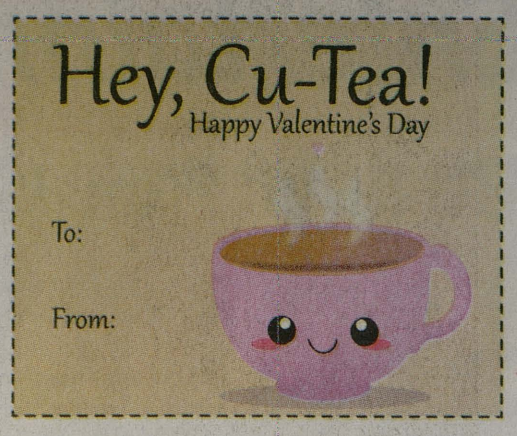
THE DRUMBEAT
Student media since 1927
Tyler Junior College

Vol. 88 | Issue 9 | February 14 - February 27, 2020



"Birds of Prey" on Page 2



Valentine's Cards on Page 8

Photo Illustration by Marly Guerrero

Is smoking legal on campus?

TJC police clarify state, campus smoking regulations

By Madison Heiser
Copy Editor

TJC police have recently honed in on campus smoking violations, but the provisions of campus and Texas smoking policies vary among sources. Texas law specifies regulations regarding the sale and possession of tobacco, as well as nicotine-free products such as hemp and cannabidiol (CBD).

According to the Texas Comptroller, as of Sept. 1 2019, it is illegal to buy, sell, distribute, possess, or consume tobacco or nicotine products in Texas if one is under the age of 21. Additionally, President Donald Trump signed legislation raising the minimum age to 21 across all U.S. states and territories. However, if an individual is at least 18 years old and is a military service member, he or she can purchase and consume tobacco products, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Similarly, any individual born before Aug. 31, 2001, may purchase and consume tobacco. According to the CDC, these exemptions stand until Aug. 31, 2022, after which all individuals must be 21 or older to purchase and consume tobacco or nicotine products.

TJC Campus Police Chief Michael Seale provided insight into both state and campus smoking policies.

"Smoking is not allowed on TJC property," Seale said. "If someone wants to smoke, they must go to the public right-of-way by the street."

Smoking is allowed in areas on or near a public roadway, including sidewalks, alleys and waterways. Seale said the roads and sidewalks that run through TJC campus are considered public areas. Smoking at any location outside of these areas, including all campus buildings, will result in a violation of the campus smoking policy.

Under state and campus policy, electronic cigarettes, vapes and hookahs are prohibited unless one meets the legal age requirement and only uses these devices in public areas.

"Violating campus policy on tobacco use could result in a sustain violation of the student or employee code of conduct," Seale said. "Should someone under the age of 21 who doesn't qualify for an exception be issued a citation for 'minor in possession of tobacco,' they could be required to attend a tobacco awareness program."

According to the TJC Student Handbook, illegal possession and consumption of tobacco, nicotine or other prohibited substances may result in disciplinary probation, suspension, expulsion or other punishments found under the "Campus Penalties of Alcohol and Drugs" section.

Nicotine-free products such as hemp and CBD are regulated under separate laws. According to the FDA, these products contain cannabidiol, a non-psychoactive chemical found in cannabis that has therapeutic benefits. In order to remain legal, CBD products must contain less than 0.3% THC – the psychoactive chemical found in marijuana.

"Currently, the legal possession of hemp and CBD is allowed on TJC as long as the THC content is less than .3%," Seale said. "CBD and hemp-related products have certain packaging and labeling requirements that are set by the state; therefore, if one purchases those products, they must make sure they purchase them from an authorized distributor and it is packaged properly."

The minimum age for the purchase, possession and consumption of hemp and CBD is generally 18 years of age, but some sellers may require consumers meet a minimum age requirement of 21.

Additional information regarding Texas tobacco laws can be found at the CDC website at cdc.gov/statesystem/factsheets/t21/Tobacco21.html.

Black history is more than a month of celebration

By Madison Heiser
Copy Editor

Martian Luther King
Graphic by Juan Lesser

On the evening of April 4, 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., stood on the second floor balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. Approximately one hour later, he was pronounced dead from a bullet wound at the age of 39. Officials say King was assassinated by James Earl Ray, but King's family theorized other perpetrators were involved, according to the New York Times.

Dr. Bridget Moore, TJC English professor, shared her interactions with the late Rev. Samuel "Billy" Kyles: a witness to the last moments of King, as well as her experiences as an African American student and professor.

At the time of King's assassination, he was preparing to leave the Lorraine Motel to meet Kyles for dinner. Kyles was a Memphis pastor, civil rights activist

Black history
Continued on page 5

Flu the real threat for Americans

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report more than 22 million flu illnesses,13 positive novel coronavirus cases in US

Influenza
Graphic by Juan Lesser

By Emily Niebuhr
Staff Writer

The novel coronavirus was first reported on Dec. 31, 2019, in Wuhan, China. Chinese health officials reported thousands of infections all around China, with the virus reportedly spreading from people to people in many parts of the country. As reported cases have increased, fear of the novel coronavirus has spread internationally. However, in East Texas and the rest of America the influenza poses a greater risk than the coronavirus.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "coronaviruses are a large family of virus common in humans and many different species of animals, including camels, cattle, cats and bats. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can infect people and then spread between people," such as the current novel coronavirus.

Dr. Tiffany Hill, a pediatrician at UT Health East Texas, provided insight into the presence of both the flu and the coronavirus in the U.S.

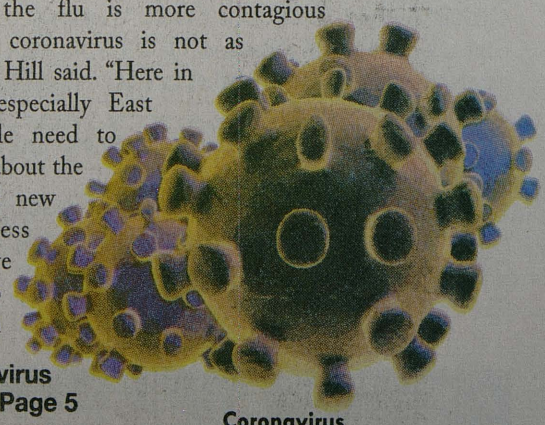
"We have more to worry about with the flu than the coronavirus," Hill said.

The CDC has reported more than 22 million influenza illnesses from Oct. 1, 2019, to Feb. 1 of this year with between 12,000 and 30,000 deaths.

Flu activity is high in the U.S., and is expected to continue for weeks. As of Feb. 11, nearly 33% of specimens sent for analysis in Texas have tested positive for influenza, according to the Texas Department of Health and Human Services. This means nearly a third of individuals who have presented flu-like symptoms have tested positive.

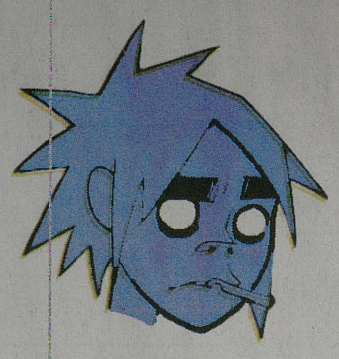
"Because the flu is more contagious and deadly, coronavirus is not as threatening," Hill said. "Here in Texas and especially East Texas, people need to worry more about the flu than the new virus, unless they have come into contact with

Flu, Coronavirus
Continued on Page 5



Coronavirus
Graphic by Juan Lesser

Review: New Gorillaz song stays true to their musical roots



Illustrations by Michael Bald

By Michael Bald
Entertainment Editor

After a two-year hiatus, the virtual alternative British band, Gorillaz, just released a new single. They collaborated with British rapper, Slowthai, and American band, Slaves, to produce the new song. Gorillaz started to tease the release of songs throughout the year and starting out with this one, shows that they are off to a great start.

The new album, or project, they've been working on is called "Song Machine." To me, seeing the character artwork posted in advertisements and the use of instruments in their videos, shows they are going back to a time when Gorillaz was a more independent name. With their new single titled, "Momentary Bliss," its clear to me that's what they're going for.

The song starts with a laid back tone that's carried out by a chill guitar riff played by Noodle and the chorus led by the singer of Slaves. However, the song begins a build-up into a faster pace and it doesn't slow down. This is accomplished by Slowthai and his duet with 2-D. When this happens, the song goes crazy into a punk-rock style they were known for in their early work. The song ends the way it began with the singer of Slaves singing the chorus calmly.

Since Gorillaz is a band starring animated characters created by Damon Albarn, this new song seems to be playing with Gorillaz's strengths of being a fictional band. Gorillaz released several videos on their YouTube page of recorded phone calls with Slowthai about the possible meaning of the song. As far as interpretations, I believe the song is talking about how the majority of people go through life in search of brief moments of happiness and how we should strive for more. The tone they created along with the lyrics gives this track an uplifting vibe and it makes me eager to see what they do next.

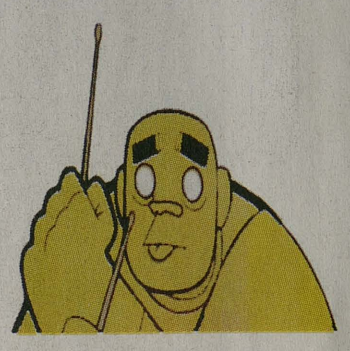
Another great quality of this song is its fusion of genres. This new song has inspirations of hardcore rap, early 2000s punk-rock, and modern-day hip-hop. Gorillaz has been known for using this tactic since their first album simply titled, "Gorillaz." However, this new song has a nice blend of modern trends of music with a mixture of nostalgia fans of the band will appreciate.

The song has a quirky quality even with its more hardcore moments. Every moment in this song has layers you can peel back. It's as if you can dig through the song and find beats and melodies you didn't hear the first time. Everything from the lyrical delivery to the music makes it fun to listen to over and over again.

As far as negatives, it's not really with the song but rather Gorillaz as a whole. They've always been known to do collaborations with other artists in the past, but I do wish they would come out with more songs made by them exclusively. Luckily, they plan on releasing new songs throughout the year, so hopefully we can hear some pure Gorillaz tracks.

When listening to Gorillaz throughout the years, it's nice to say with this new song I instantly liked it and eventually loved it. I'm excited to see what the band has in store this year and in future projects.

Illustrations by Michael Bald



Review: 'Birds of Prey' is a good time, not a great one though

By Michael Bald
Entertainment Editor

Ever wondered what it would be like to watch a movie that's part "Deadpool," "John Wick," Hot Topic fanfiction and just a pinch of feminism while taking acid? Then this is the movie for you!

"Birds of Prey (and Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn)," is the newest film by the DC Comics Expanded Universe and follows Harley Quinn, played by Margot Robbie, after her break up with Joker. She eventually gets in the crosshairs of a kingpin named Black Mask and has to team up with a group of unlikely heroes to take him down.

Like "Suicide Squad," Margot Robbie is the best part of the movie by far. She is honestly one of the best casting decisions for a comic book movie I've ever seen. She completely embodies the essence of the Harley Quinn character, and she's a blast to watch.

The action in the movie is brutal and bloody. They make sure the audience knows what they're in for in the first 10 minutes. They never shy away from the violence. There was one scene, in particular, that takes place in a police evidence locker. That was probably the best fight scene in the movie. You could feel every hit, kick and punch that was taken and it was a blast to watch.

The other performances were pretty good, as well. Ewan McGregor as Roman Sionis, a.k.a. Black Mask, was delightfully over the top. Where his character could fall flat as a big bad guy, he is able to bring enough charisma as well as his added quirks as an actor to sell it. Mary Elizabeth Weinsted was also good in the role of Huntress and Jurnee Smollett-Bell was good as Black Canary. However, these characters do lead to my biggest problem with the movie.

Photo by Warner Bros. Entertainment

The movie should have never been called "Birds of Prey." The entire movie is all from Harley Quinn's perspective, and the team doesn't even become a team until the very end. The film also suffers the same problems many had with "Suicide Squad," which was a case of style over substance.

Whenever the film needs a scene to be engaging, they feel the need to add little animated drawings or a pop song every couple of minutes. The first act, in particular, felt as if it was all over the place; we're constantly jumping from character to character. There is a scene about 20 minutes into the movie that comes out of left field and it goes back in time to explain how the character got in this situation. It takes at least a good 10 to 15 minutes to get back where we were and it felt unnecessary. This could have been done at the beginning and would have been better from a narrative perspective. The problems are not as blatant as "Suicide Squad's" but they are still there.

The side characters also suffer from the same problems as "Suicide Squad," where they show the characters past through voice-over and that is really all we get for their character. The only other traits we get for them are some quick one-liners here and there.

This is also more of a plot-driven movie than it is a character-driven one. Since Harley Quinn is really the only on who feels three-dimensional, the plot should be very engaging to make up for the lack of characterization but it doesn't. So with a fairly safe plot and undeveloped characters, it can take a while for some viewers to get invested in what's happening on screen.

Overall, if anyone's a fan of the Harley Quinn character or wants to watch a fun movie with good action, you'll get it with this movie. Just don't go in expecting a masterpiece.

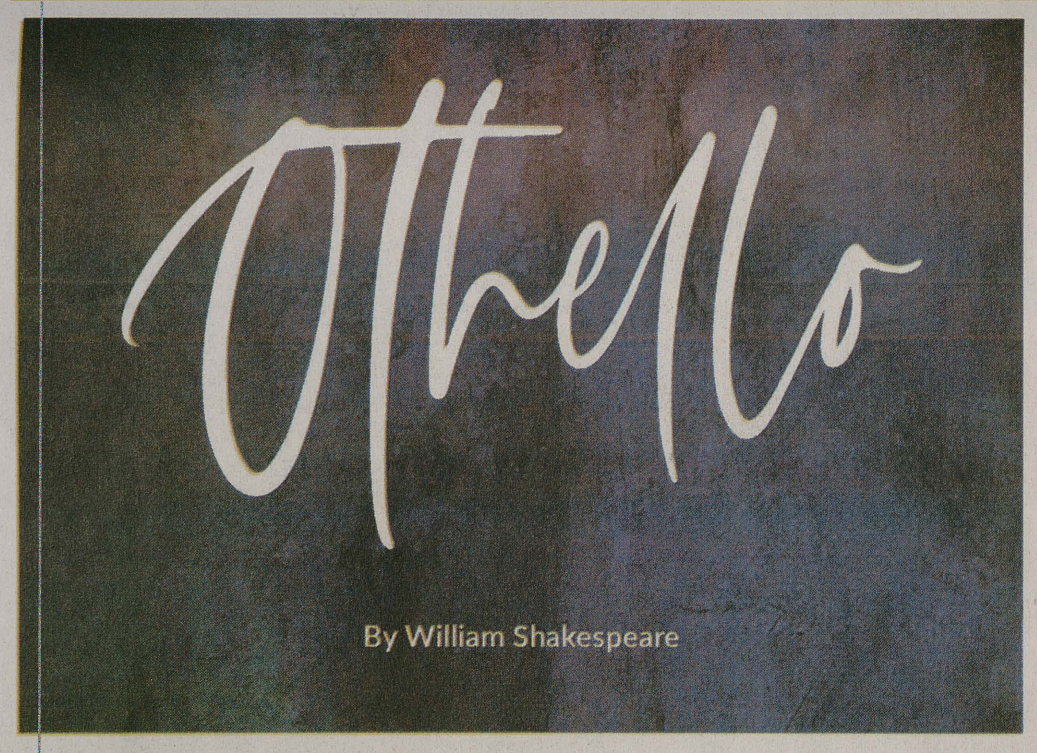


Photo courtesy of Tyler Junior College Theatre Department

TJC Theatre Department brings 'Othello' to East Texas

By Michael Bald
Entertainment Editor

The Tyler Junior College Theatre Department will be performing the play "Othello" at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 19-22 at the Jean Brown Theatre. There will be an additional showing at 2:30 p.m. on Feb. 22.

"This is the first time TJC's ever done 'Othello.' In fact, we think it's the only production of 'Othello' in East Texas," said Denise Weatherly-Green, a professor of theatre at TJC. "For us, the play is about differences and whether one embraces differences or rejects them."

The play follows the character of Iago and his eventual downfall.

"Iago is a disgruntled guy who takes out his misery on everyone else," Weatherly-Green said. "He allows his jealousy to grow to where eventually he brings everyone down. The title of the play is 'Othello,' but it is really Iago's story."

Although the play has been cut down to two hours instead of four, that doesn't mean Shakespeare's dialogue will be changed.

"It is still the same eloquent language," Weatherly-Green said. "As a Shakespeare enthusiast, it is painful for me to cut the script because every word to me is important. However, I want my audience to stay engaged at every moment."

Weatherly-Green is also excited to see the production design for the play.

"This will be the first production where I will not be designing the scenery; Professor Jacob Davis is instead," Weatherly-Green said. "He's designed a spiral-trimmed curtain that will physically mesh the characters. With lighting, it will look stunning for the audience."

Performance Times

7:30 p.m. Feb. 19
7:30 p.m. Feb. 20
7:30 p.m. Feb. 21
2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Feb. 22

TJC AWARDS NEARLY $4 MILLION IN SCHOLARSHIPS EACH YEAR!

Don't assume you won't qualify!

To receive consideration for scholarships, applicants must be planning to enroll in a minimum of 12 semester credit hours each fall and spring semester or be accepted into a Nursing and Health Sciences program.

Submitting a scholarship application allows applicants to be considered for most scholarships awarded by TJC, unless otherwise noted. Scholarships are not available during the winter or summer sessions.

Apply at tjc.edu/scholarships.
Deadline March 1

For questions, email scholarships@tjc.edu or call 903-510-3234.

TJC.edu/scholarships TJC

THE APACHE ARCHIVES 2020

This week in history Feb. 14 - 20

By Madison Heiser
Copy Editor

Apache Archives is a recurring historical article featuring a timeline of anniversary events for a week. There will be a weekly spotlight interviewing TJC faculty and students on the impact of a highlighted historical event.

Feb. 14

Photo from the League of Women Voters' media library

The League of Women Voters was founded in Chicago in 1920.

Women's Suffrage: 100 Years Later

By Madison Heiser
Copy Editor

Feb. 14, 2020, marks the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the League of Women Voters. Still an active organization, the LWV was created six months before the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which granted women the right to vote.

The LWV is a nonpartisan organization originally designed to assist women in their responsibilities as voters. By 1924, the LWV had chapters in 346 of 433 congressional districts. Currently, the LWV boasts membership in more than 700 chapters in all 50 states. The league also states members are "encouraged to be political themselves, by educating citizens about, and lobbying for, government and social reform legislation."

TJC history professors Sharon Kyser and Donna Belt are currently working with the LWV in preparation for anniversary events celebrating the group's foundation. Kyser shared her insight regarding the societal impact of the league's foundation.

"It was a long battle to the ratification of the 19th Amendment: 70 years of campaigning, challenging stereotypes and suffering," Kyser said. "As women began having access to the polls, the League of Women Voters took up the mantle of helping women carry out their new responsibilities as voters. They focused on not just women's issues, but educating all voters. The LWV's most important role was to encourage women to use their vote; they had to overcome intimidation and disinterest and get women out of the home and into the voting booth."

Feb. 15

Poster from Buena Vista Film Distribution

Walt Disney's "Cinderella" premiered in Boston in 1950.

Feb. 16

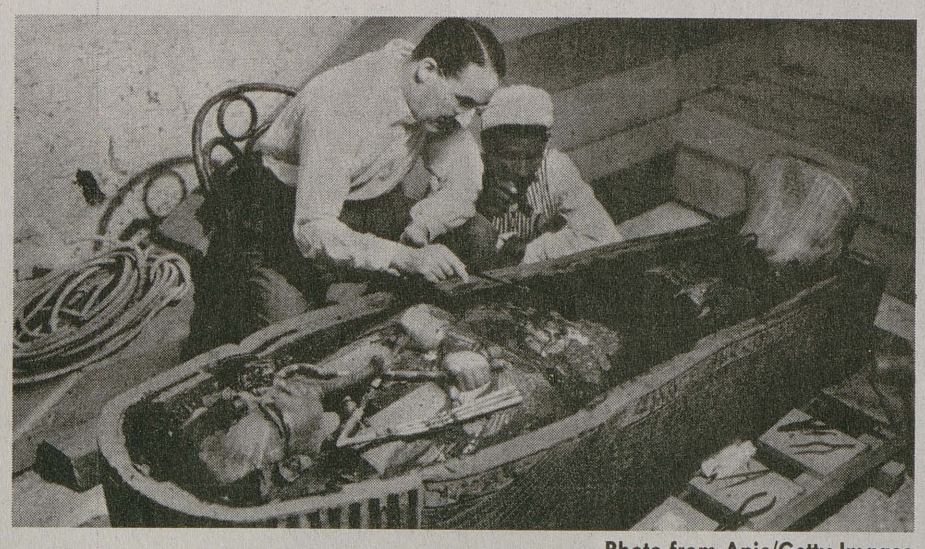


Photo from Apic/Getty Images

The inner burial chamber of King Tut's tomb was opened and his sarcophagus was discovered by Howard Carter in 1923.

Feb. 17

Photo from Chicago Bulls

NBA superstar Michael Jordan was born in Brooklyn in 1963.

Feb. 18

Photo by Karim Bouchetata of Meteo Algerie

For the first time in recorded history, snow fell in the Sahara Desert in 1979.

Feb. 19

Photo from National Geographic

The iconic photograph, "Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima," was taken in 1945 during the U.S.' invasion against Japanese forces during World War II.

Feb. 20

Photo from NASA

John Glenn became the first American astronaut to orbit the Earth in 1962.

Explore with TJC's travel study program

By Sorayda Rivera
Contributing Writer

As a student, traveling might be something that doesn't come easy; time and money may pose some issues. Tyler Junior College offers an opportunity for students and community members to travel. TJC's travel study program offers trips to Greece, Costa Rica and New York as experiences to explore other places outside of Tyler.

Over the next issues of The Drumbeat, the staff will discuss details about the different trips, the costs, available scholarships and application information.

Greece: Archaeological and Biblical Journeys to the Ancient Civilizations

This excursion to Greece takes the journeyer on a 10-day adventure from March 6-15. There are also two extended options. The trip costs $2,090, and the price does not include airfare. Those interested in traveling to Greece can purchase their desired airline ticket. There is a partial scholarship of $1,000 for students. A deposit of $590 is required at the time of registration.

This trip does not offer college credit. Eligibility is based on a first-come, first-served basis. According to the TJC website, the tour is open to the public. Any community member, student or faculty member may enroll for this project.

Project director Dr. Manouchehr Khosrowshahi explained what travelers will learn on the Greece trip like history, culture and mythology.

"The base of our civilization is based on Greek culture," Khosrowshahi said.

Christy Jetton, a nursing student, said this is her second year going to Greece.

"We learned a lot of history, and Dr. K made it fun," Jetton said.

She added she enjoyed theatre visits and Greek Night. While abroad, students had a unique dinner, watched some dancing and enjoyed a Greek tradition of smashing plates for celebratory events.

"You'll be missing out if you don't go," Jetton said.

The trip includes a full day tour of Greece, the Temple of Athena Nike, the Corinth Canal and more places, including seven of the 18 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Heritage sites in Greece.

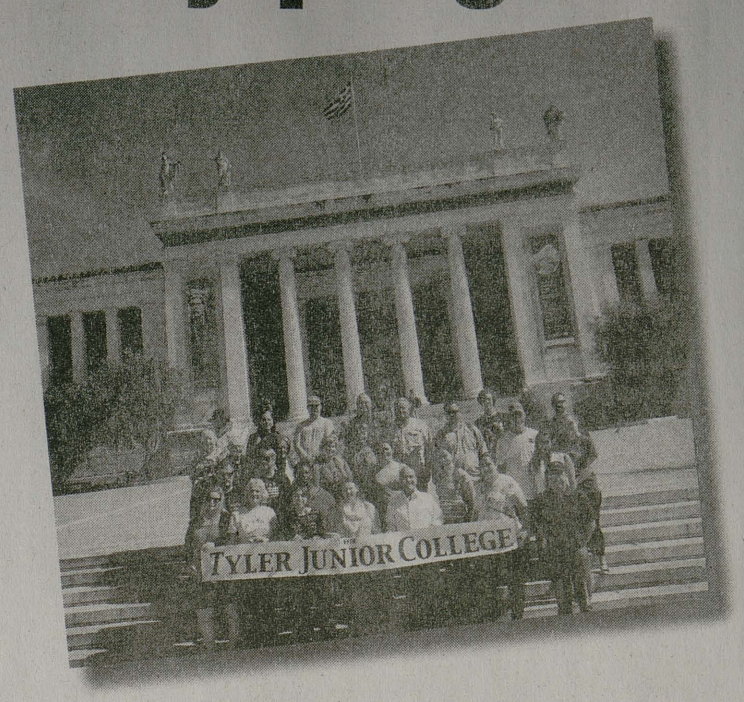
Health, accident, baggage and trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended.

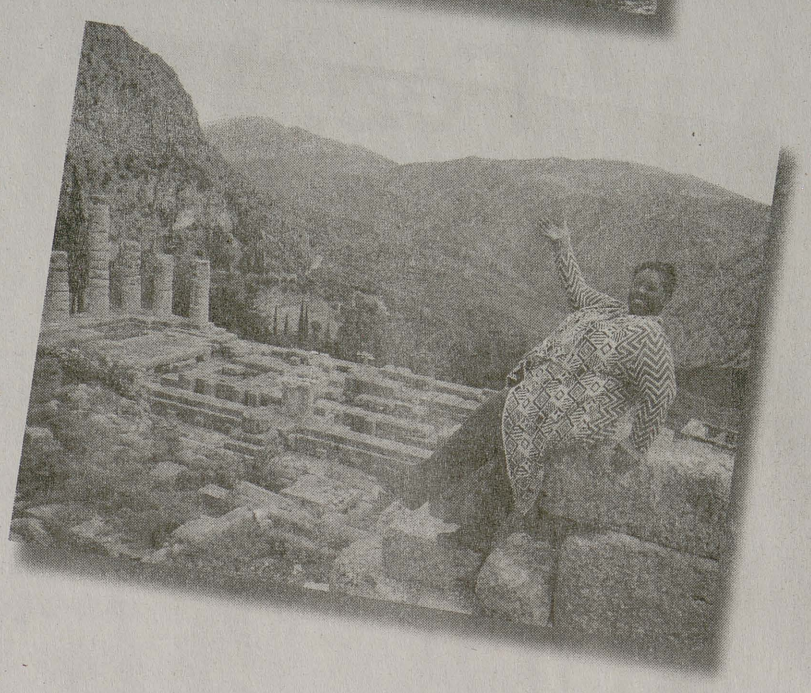
For individuals with mobility issues interested in the trip to Greece, they will be accommodated. Khosrowshahi said there is hiking on mountains and some areas are hard to get for those who are not fully ambulatory, but they do not discriminate and are willing to accommodate as much as they can. "We do not want to deprive anyone because of a disability," Khosrowshahi said.

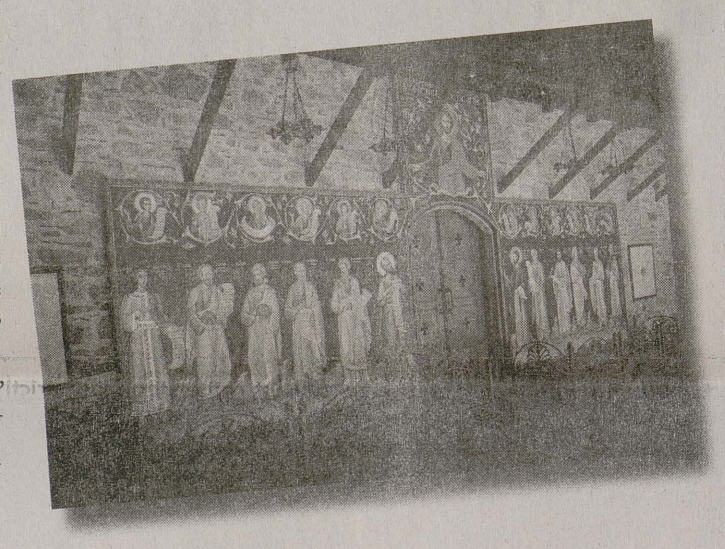
For the full trip itinerary, conditions and responsibilities, application information and more, visit tjc.edu/info/20030/travel_study_programs/154/greece_travel_study.

For additional questions or concerns, contact Khosrowshahi at 903-510-2279 or mkho@tjc.edu.

Stay tuned to the next few issues to learn more about the trips to New York and Costa Rica.







- Round-trip transportation to the airports within Greece
- Accommodations in 4-5 star hotels, double occupancy
- English speaking licensed professional tourist guide
- Land transportation within Greece with air-conditioned bus
- Admission fees to the sites on the itinerary
- Two meals a day per itinerary
- Parking fees, tips to hotels and restaurants
- Administrative fees and orientation costs

Photos courtesy of TJC

Photo by Scott Witcher
Members of the TJC men's soccer team helped plant trees during the Arbor Day event at the TJC North Campus.

Students better community by planting trees at TJC North Campus

Photo by Scott Witcher

By Scott Witcher
Contributing Writer

TJC recently held an Arbor Day event at its North Campus in order to plant new trees and engage with the community. At the opening ceremony, volunteers and contributors were thanked for coming and instructed on how the events would proceed.

The event was held in collaboration with the Tyler Trees Committee and the University of Texas at Tyler. The event had a multitude of purposes. Beyond celebrating Arbor Day, it was held to encourage locals to keep the ecosystem healthy. Along with this, planting new trees helps the ecosystem recover from any trees that might have been lost to damage.

Volunteers were split into groups of 15 and each given shovels. Groups were then assigned to a specific spot to help dig a hole. Once the holes were dug, the trees were placed in and covered.

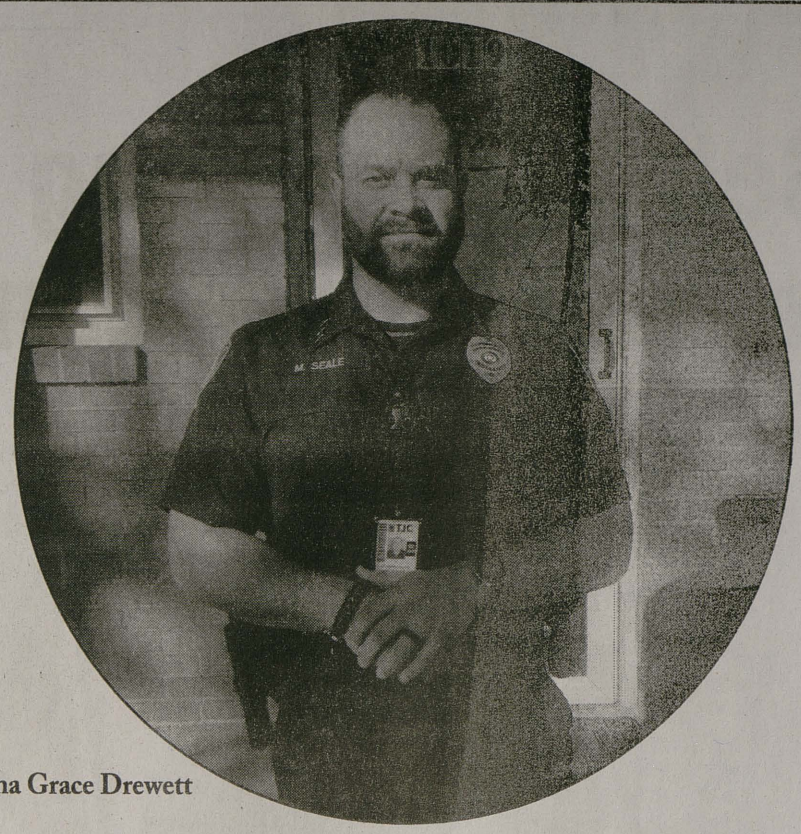
Volunteers were then treated to a free lunch held at the site.

According to Ken Wheeler, president of the Tyler Trees Committee, the committee hosts several tree plantings each year, at events such as this. The number of plantings they are allowed has grown each year. Wheeler said the efforts of the volunteers at the event helped make Lindale a "greater place to be."

TJC is not the only campus hosting an event to commemorate Arbor Day. UT Tyler plans to hold an Arbor Day event on Feb. 15. The Tree Committee of Tyler hopes by holding these events, the communities of Tyler and Lindale can continue to keep the local ecosystem healthy for years to come.

Photo by Scott Witcher

Q&A with Michael Seale, Chief of Police



Story and Photo by Anna Grace Drewett

Q: How long have you worked at TJC?
A: About 15 months

Q: Where did you work before this?
A: UT Tyler. I originally started as a student worker, and then when I left I was the lieutenant over the operations of the police department.

Q: What led you to begin working at Tyler Junior College?
A: It was an opportunity. There's not a lot of opportunities like this in the East Texas area, so I saw this as an opportunity to grow in my career and try to bring some change to the police department and make a positive impact on the campus.

Q: Could you describe what a general day on the job looks like?
A: I come in, get caught up on my emails and check my voicemail to make sure I don't have any missed calls or important voicemails from the day before. Typically, I try to look at most of the reports that come in from the day before to see what's going on from the shifts that I wasn't here for. I have meetings, and then I've got a lot of things I'm just generally working on and trying to improve. Right now, we're focused on hiring. We're trying to hire one PSO, two dispatchers and one police officer. We're trying to get the applications screened, personal history statements in and get people's backgrounds so we can have a 24-hour dispatch and some more people out on patrol.

Q: What is the most rewarding part of your job?
A: Being able to help people. A lot of times people see the police as maybe heavy handed, but if I can just walk up to somebody and have a conversation and work through what's going on that's the most rewarding part. It's not all about writing the most tickets or putting everybody in jail, it's about helping people from something as small as a parking ticket to getting someone to back where they need to be so they can be good members of society. That's why I like working in a college environment. You've got a chance to interact with people coming out of high school that maybe are starting down a wrong path. Maybe that interaction or bond you build with them can get them back on the path they need to be on in order to finish college, graduate and be successful.

Q: Where did you go to college?
A: UT Tyler. I'm currently getting my master's degree in human resource development. It was something I started before I left UT, and I've continued it since coming to TJC.

Q: What do you plan on doing with your master's degree?
A: Building this police department. The things that I'm learning there will help develop the police department and make it better. There's going to be some promotion opportunities that will become available, and I hope to use those skills to mentor the people we promote so we all can function like a well-oiled machine so to speak. That's the reason I did human resource development; I want to do something different. My bachelor's degree is in criminal justice, and my minor was in political science. I wanted to go in a different direction with my master's so I had another area that I could grow and learn from and apply it to the human side of the department rather than just strictly crime prevention and crime theory.

Q: What is one interesting fact about yourself?
A: I'm quiet. If you see me around campus, I'll always approach somebody and ask them "Hi, how are you doing?" but my personality in generally is quiet, low-key, calm.

Q: What are your favorite activities to do outside of work?
A: I like to workout as kind of a stress relief. I love spending time with my kids and riding my motorcycle. Both of my kids like to fish, so whenever I can I try to take them fishing.

Q: Is there anything you would like to add?
A: I've got a lot of projects going on, a lot of projects internally, trying to make the department better. We're looking at several different things to make the college better. I'm doing the same thing that I did over at UT, essentially. I'm always looking for change and ways to improve, but not change for the sake of change. Change has to have a purpose; it has to have a meaning. If it doesn't improve or build upon what's already there, then it doesn't do any good.

Black history: TJC professor recalls impact of Dr. King's legacy, more

From Page 1

and friend to King.

Moore said Kyles was a quiet and unassuming man. "He was one of those who did not have to raise his voice to be heard," Moore said. "When he opened his mouth, you naturally closed yours so that you didn't miss a syllable of wisdom."

Kyles was one of the only people present at the time of King's death.

"He understood that he was present at a pivotal moment in American history," Moore said. "He didn't use that moment to catapult him to fame and fortune; most people do not even know who he was on a national scale."

The people of Memphis were familiar with Kyles' activism in civil and human rights. "He chose to lead confrontations against injustice right where he was," Moore said. "So, while I was not on the balcony that day, I have heard the first-hand story from a man who was. Since he is no longer here, I have the pleasure and responsibility of keeping Rev. Kyles' memory and legacy viable. Not only do I pick up that mantle, but I have a responsibility of adding to the legacy – not adding to the moment in history, but adding to the residual effects of that moment."

King led a fight for African American civil rights in the 1960s. "I think Martin Luther King Jr. sometimes becomes synonymous with black people and/or Black History Month. When that happens, it is disrespectful to so many more people who strive(d) for human rights," Moore said. "So many more African Americans, known and unknown, made an impact on society as a whole and more personally on our own individual lives. Their legacies deserve to be celebrated, and more importantly, respected."

Moore described the impact that King had on her own life.

"He represented the possibility of what society could be. He taught me that it is OK to question; he showed me how to challenge the status quo – he challenges to make a difference."

Moore also recalled her experience as an African American student and how it shapes her character as a professor.

Moore attended Texas A&M University in the 1980s; often, she was one of the only African American students in classrooms of nearly 300.

"When I teach at TJC, I see myself in the faces of my students, regardless of ethnicity or gender or creed or economic status," Moore said. "They benefit, not only from my skills knowledge but also by literally seeing diversity in a position of authority and knowledge."

Since 1926, February has been designated as Black History Month – a time of celebration, cultural appreciation and community involvement surrounding the achievements of African American figures in both the past and present.

Moore asserted empathy and communication as means of involvement in Black History Month.

"I think it is great to celebrate however they choose. I think it is more important to make an impact and hopefully it will be a long-lasting impact – that's the best way to celebrate," Moore said. "Do something that is going to leave a mark. Fill in the gap where you see one. The best way to celebrate Black History Month is to make an impact on society that will be felt longer than 28 or 29 days."

Moore is a member of the Red Rock Historical Association, a nonprofit organization currently working to build an African American museum and activity center in East Texas. The group also sponsors the showing of "The Witness," which provides Rev. Kyles' account of King's assassination. The documentary will be shown on the TJC campus from 4-6 p.m. on Feb. 18 in the Jenkins Building, Room 1109.

Moore said any student, regardless of race or gender, is capable of fostering improvement and representation within the community.

"Get active," Moore said. "Walk in someone else's shoes."

Flu, Coronavirus: Pediatrician warns against dangers of flu

From Page 1

anyone from Wuhan, China."

The first confirmed instance of coronavirus infection in the U.S. was reported on Jan. 30. The CDC has reported 13 positive cases of the novel coronavirus in the U.S.; however, there have been no positive cases in Texas.

According to Hill, both the influenza and the coronavirus cause upper respiratory infection. Symptoms for both are similar: fever, cough, body aches, congestion and runny nose.

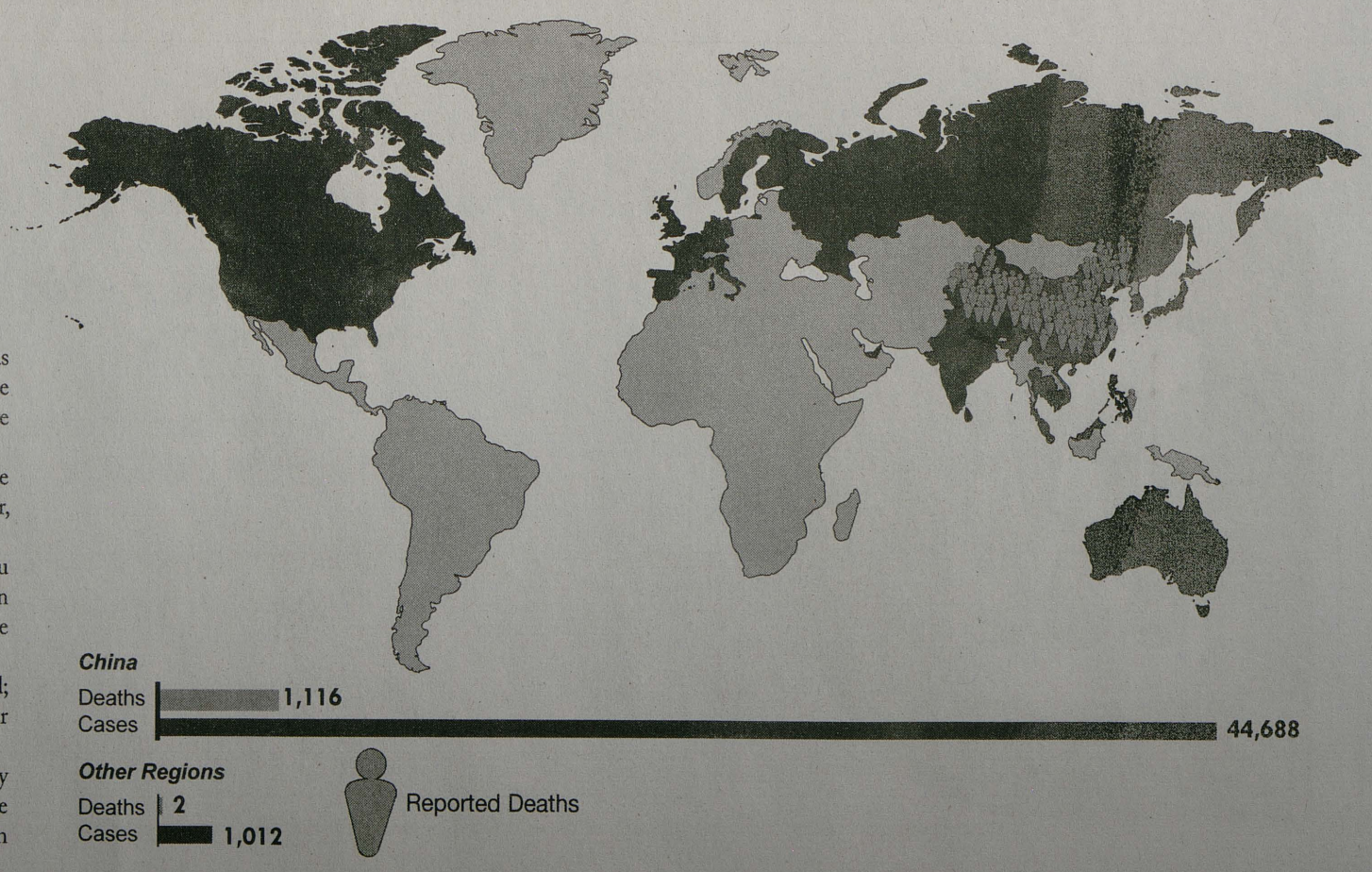
The CDC recommends everyone six months and older get a flu vaccine. Approximately 173 million doses of the flu vaccine have been distributed. People who are at risk of serious flu illness should take the appropriate medication quickly if they are sick.

Hill provided some tips to avoid getting the flu: "Get vaccinated; wash your hands; cough in the bend of the elbow and try to avoid other sick contacts."

The CDC reports children under the age of five as well as the elderly are more vulnerable to contract the flu because of their weak immune systems. At the age of six months, parents can have their children vaccinated.

According to Hill, the flu season runs from October through March with spikes in December, January, February and March. Last year, the season started in October, but had cases in April and May.

At the TJC campus clinic, students can get a free flu shot if they have a current student ID.



Graphic by Juan Lesser
The graphic above represents the number of reported cases and deaths of the coronavirus globally. As illustrated, there have been 1,116 deaths in China and two in other regions, as of Feb. 12. These numbers come from data collected by Worldometer.

Self-deprecating memes have negative impacts; pose danger to people's self-esteem

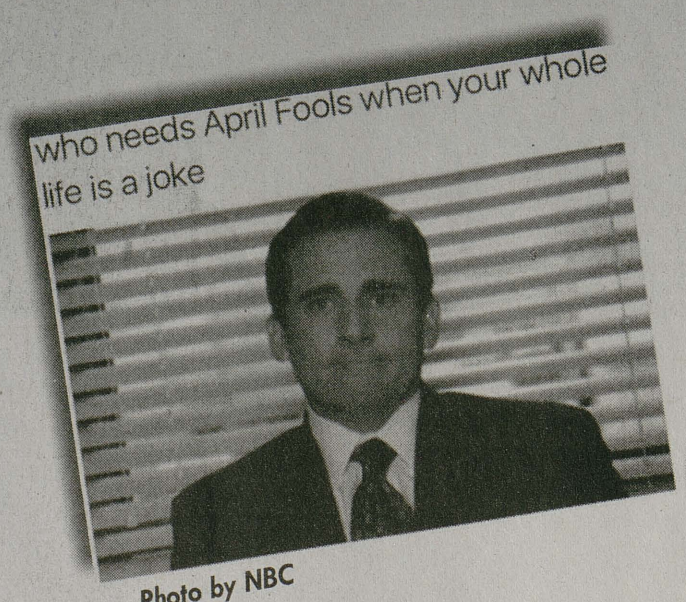


Photo by NBC

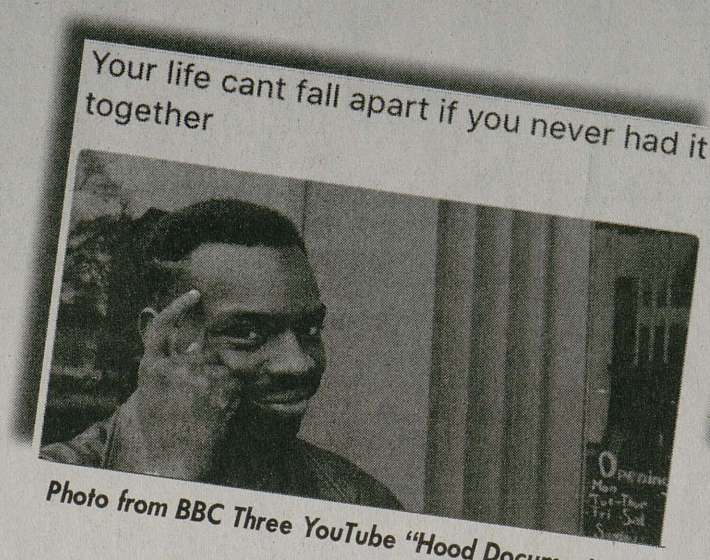


Photo from BBC Three YouTube "Hood Documentary"

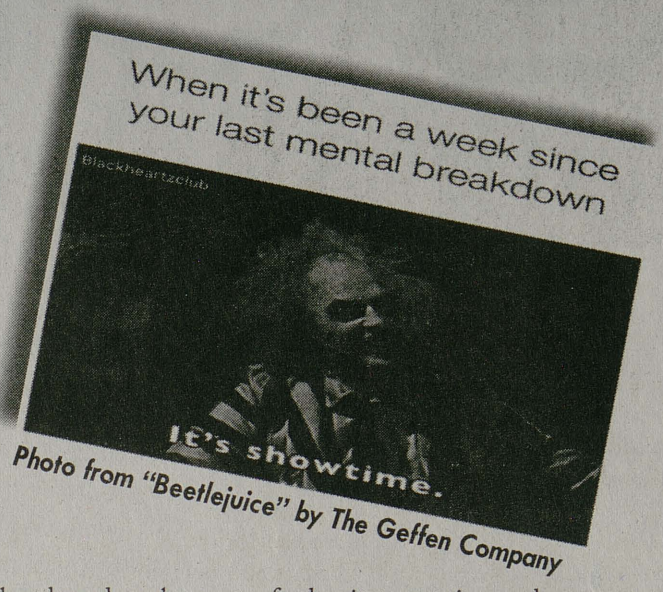


Photo from "Beetlejuice" by The Geffen Company

Staff Editorial

Memes like these are only a few examples of the phenomenon that has become a substantial part of internet culture. According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, memes take on a life similar to an organism. They spread and evolve as they move from one person to another, often reflecting current issues. However, a common theme in meme culture today is self-deprecation.

In the past 10 or more years, memes have been a big part of society. They have given many laughs as well as acted as conversation starters. As time progressed, self-deprecating memes have slowly become more of a harmful thing rather than a source of enjoyment.

In recent years, social media has provided a platform to share memes of various dimensions, such as Bad Luck Bryan, socially awkward penguin and philosoraptor. One phenomenon involves shrouding an unhealthy negative self-image in humor through memes. These memes target specific things like obesity, facial construction, skin color, mental health, etc. According to Psyche, "self-deprecation is a form of verbal self-harm."

These self-deprecating memes can cause people who are already self-conscious about themselves to hate themselves even more, possibly causing depression and suicidal thoughts.

Countdowns to mental breakdowns and suicide are accompanied by seemingly light-hearted photos and shared countless times across social media. Examples of memes that fall into this category are, "Who needs April fools when your whole life is a joke?" or "Can't be depressed if you've never known happiness." Memes like these can cause people to suffer from stress, anxiety and lower self-esteem, often making preexisting feelings worse.

Some memes are at times inappropriate or simply taken too far. At times, people who create content that frowns upon others typically have a problem or issue they are trying to overcome, and they don't see any other way to release the pain/anger. They depend on the power of technology to escape from their personal issues. "Constantly seeking validation from others and engaging in self-deprecation can lead to alienation," according to Psyche. Although these memes can be derived from good-natured humor, those who are seriously suffering from depression, anxiety or other mental health concerns should seek professional help.

Potentially offensive memes should be thought out before being created. The huge concern with memes is that some take the severity of these issues away.

While memes are a form of parody, the excessive use of poor mental and physical health as content may lead many to self-diagnose serious disorders, drawing attention and resources away from those who genuinely suffer from these conditions.

In order to combat the phenomenon of self-hatred in meme culture, content creators can steer away from self-deprecation and create memes fostering positivity and solidarity among social platforms. If we steer away from hurtful memes and stop giving them as much attention, we as a society can combat the foe of hurting ourselves. People can no longer feel the need to make fun of themselves to feel better. They can search for a more optimistic way to get the help they need.

Column: A night to be remembered at the 2020 Oscars

By Andrea Valdez
Broadcast Anchor

Every year, thousands of film fans tune in to one of the biggest nights for film and Hollywood. Celebrities are all dressed up in their finest designer clothing, acceptance speeches touch the hearts of many, and everyone always looks forward to seeing who will win in the Best Picture and Best Actor/Actress categories.

In the lead for most Oscars swept the night of Feb. 9 was the underdog from South Korea, "Parasite," which was directed by Bong Joon Ho, winning in the categories Best International Film, Best Original Screenplay, Best Director, and the one to take the cake, Best Picture. This is the first time a film from South Korea has both been nominated and won in the Best Picture category.

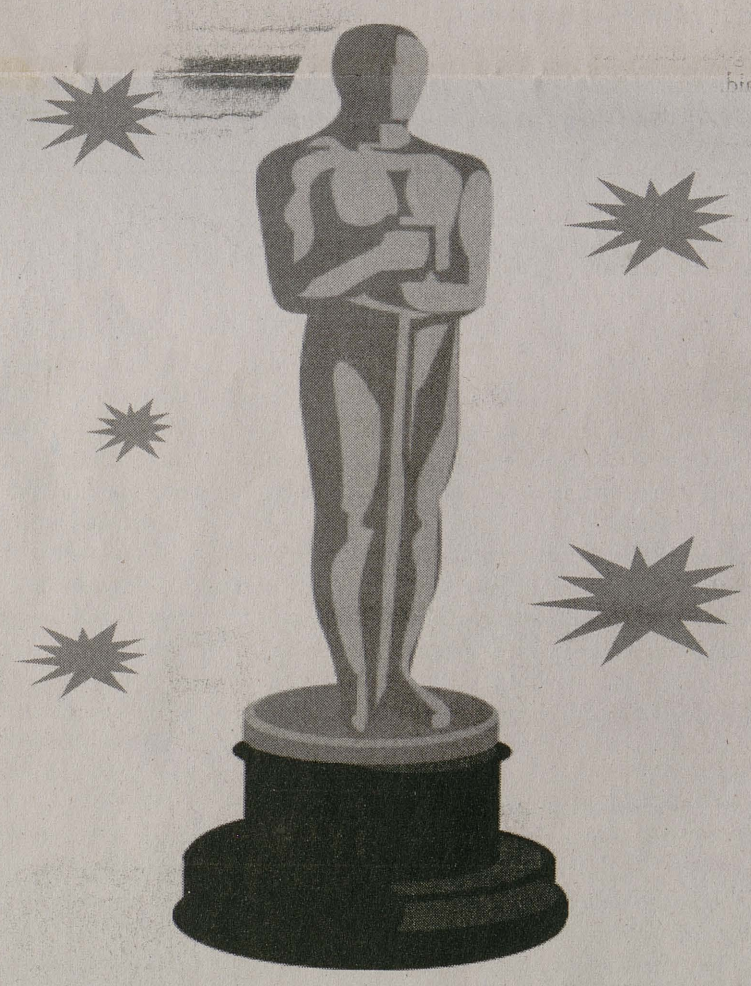
In the Best Actor categories, Joaquin Phoenix takes the win for Best Actor for his portrayal as Arthur Fleck, also known as the Joker, in the critically acclaimed 2019 film "Joker." In the Best Actress category, the winner is Renée Zellweger for her portrayal as Judy Garland in the biopic "Judy."

This year's Oscars were full of firsts. As mentioned before, this was the first time a South Korean film had been nominated for the Best Picture category, and it was a real win not just for the people who worked on the film, but also for South Korea. Director Bong Joon Ho said, "Once you overcome the one-inch tall barrier of subtitles, you will be introduced to so many more amazing films." He wanted those in the audience and those watching at home to see the diversity in film is so grand, and as moviegoers, people should explore more films than just the ones in their comfort zone and native language.

The Oscars also made history with its first presenter with Down syndrome. Actor Zack Gottsagen alongside "Peanut Butter Falcon" costar Shia LaBeouf presented the award for Best Live Action Short Film, which went to "The Neighbors Window."

This was also the first time a female conductor led the Best Original Score portion of the Oscars. Irish conductor Eimear Noone led the orchestra as they played the music for the nominees in the Best Original Score category. Winner for Best Original Score went to Hildur Guðnadóttir for her work on "Joker."

Special highlights of the night included performances by Elton John with his Oscar-winning song from the movie "Rocketman," "I'm Gonna Love Me Again;" Idina Menzel (along with actresses who played Elsa in other countries) performing "Into the Unknown;" Billie Eilish performing a beautiful cover of the song "Yesterday" by the Beatles; and an unexpected yet crowd-raising performance of "Lose Yourself" by Eminem.



Graphic by Michael Bald

Have an opinion? Share it with us by writing a guest column or a letter to the editor.

If you are interested in sharing, here's what you need to know.

- The Drumbeat invites its readers to share views by writing letters to the editor.
- All contributions will be edited for grammar, spelling, length (300 words maximum), profanity and personal attacks.
- All letters must include the author's name, address, telephone number and academic classification.
- Editors reserve the right to deny publication of any letter.

Email letters to news@thedrumbeat.com or bring to Jenkins 1114 B.

Apache baseball ready to start the new year

By Yasmeli Alonso
Sports Editor

The Apache baseball team is ready to set it off this season.

Placing second in the pre-season ranking is setting the team up for a good start. However, Coach Doug Wren said although the recognition feels nice it doesn't really mean anything as far as how the team performance will really reflect.

"We've had a lot of success in this program, so it's really easy to settle into an entitled approach, and more of a, 'we're expected to get this,'" Wren said. "But it's really important for us as a coaching staff to keep them in more a desiring stage, more of a hunger, and more in a mentality that we have to go earn this."

Staying motivated doesn't seem to be a problem for the team. They're work ethic has improved in the six months they've been training together, and they're excited.

Wren wants to make it a point that work and preparation pay off. The end goal for the team is still to place first at the end of the season. But this goal is not the only thing driving them. TJC's baseball program has won National Championship for five years straight; however, last season the team placed third. This season they're trying to regain the championship title.

This year Wren said the team's youthfulness is good because they're hungry and they work hard. He added even the freshmen have had a taste of the hunger from the sophomores. "It'll be fun to see them blossom," Wren said.

Having the reputation of a five-year championship title, makes other teams know that they're up for a challenge when facing the TJC Apaches.

"You're gonna get a good version of every team we play and that's a good place to be because it'll hopefully draw the best out of you," Wren said.

Heath Hood / Sophomore / Outfielder

Heath Hood has been playing with the TJC baseball team for two years. Last season, Hood made All-Star team and had the opportunity to travel to Abilene Christian University and compete against other Texas and New Mexico collegiate athletes. This season Hood has big plans.

"We're definitely hungry for another successful year. We have all these goals we're looking forward to and working for them every day. Our standards are high, so we're looking to meet them," Hood said.

The baseball team doesn't have a team captain, but other players would say they see Hood as a natural leader, especially with his success in the past. Hood said his teammates looking up to him doesn't add any pressure.

"I like being able to lead them and show them how this program goes about its business," he said.

But Hood stays humble throughout the recognition.

"I just put my head down and work as hard as I can. I mean I do whatever I can for the team — whatever is best for them, so encouraging guys when they need it and just really working hard and doing what I can to help the team," Hood said.

Despite the pats on the back and hearing others congratulate him on his success, Hood like many recognizable athletes has high standards for himself.

"I always feel like it's never good enough, and I'm always trying to go for perfection," he said.

Hood's love for the game is undeniable, and he reflects on times when he would play with his brothers like playing tee-ball when he was only 4 years old. Hood continued his baseball career through summer baseball leagues and played for high school and then transitioned in to the TJC team.

Coach Doug Wren recruited Hood. Hood had an idea of the program from hearing about their championships in the past, and he recognized the winning culture was a big factor that attracted him to the team. However, seeing familiar faces and getting to know the coaching staff was more of the cherry on top through out his decision.

"I just like to have a group of guys that we're all working for the same goals and working hard at it every day. When we win it pays off," Hood said.

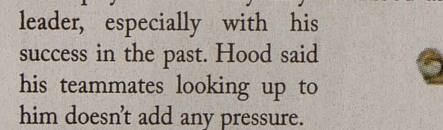
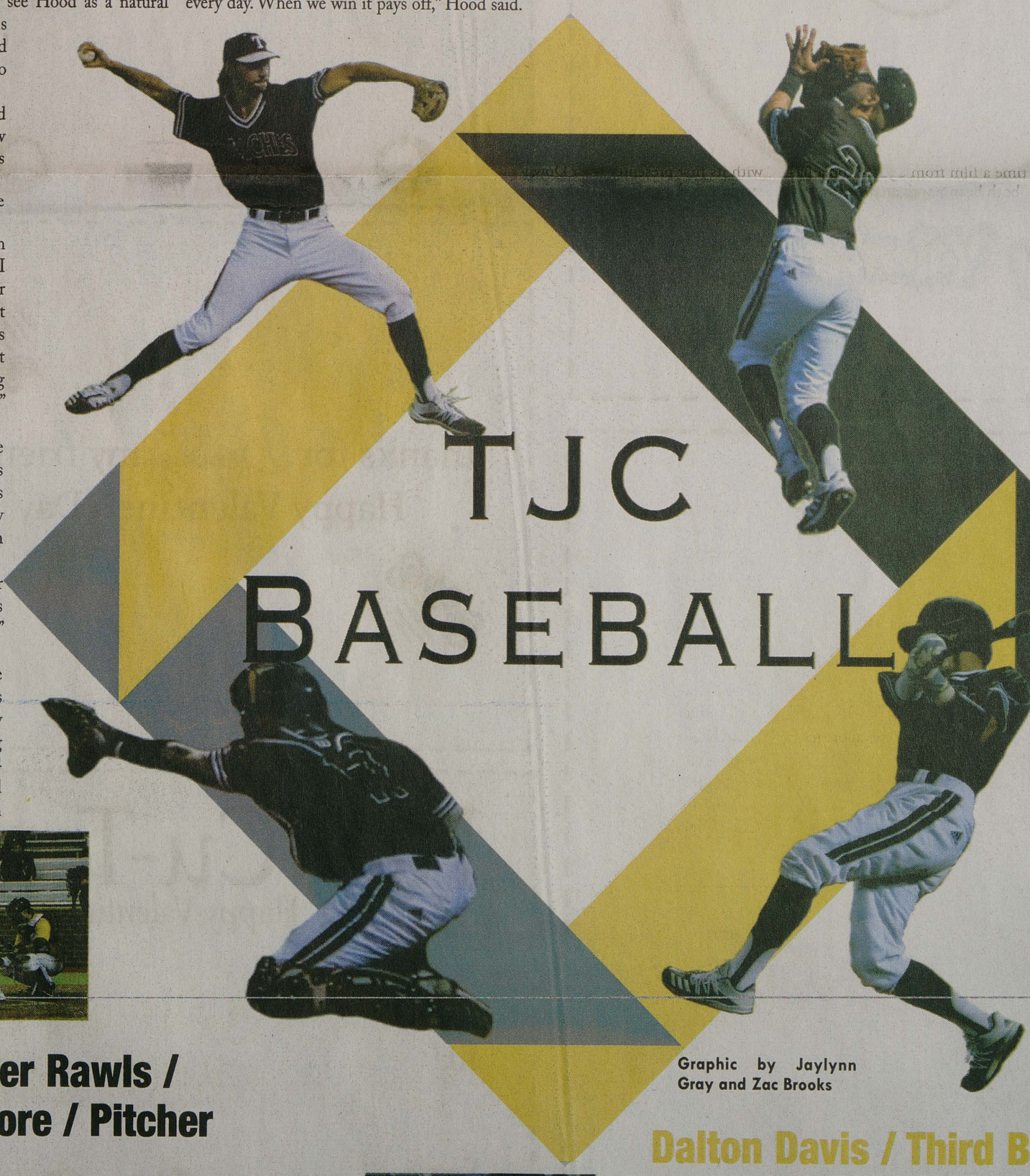


Photo by Jaylynn Gray



Graphic by Jaylynn Gray and Zac Brooks

Robert Hines / Freshman / First Base and Catcher

Robert Hines is a freshman at TJC who was introduced to baseball by his big sister when he was 2 years old.

"I've been playing my whole life. At this point, I have made it 'my life.' I think the only downside to that is knowing it doesn't last forever," Hines said.

Coming into the TJC program, Hines knew the expectations.

"I knew the standard coming here as I was being recruited," he said. "I saw all the national championships they had. I knew coming in this is what we, as a team, were working for."

However, Hines has already set his own goals for this season.

"I feel like a big part of it is making it to that All Star team like Heath did last year. That's a personal goal of mine to make that team," Hines said.

Hines also recognizes this is an important year for the team, but is confident that everything will fall into place as the season continues.

"I have to put myself in perspective and realize that, yeah, this game means a lot to me, but at the end of the day it's not a life or death situation. No matter the outcome I still have the guys beside me and my family at home, that's what really matters," Hines said.

Hines also elaborates on how his team really plays a big part in this new journey of joining college baseball.

"I like how everyone is competing for playing times and for spots on the field, but at the end of the day, the only thing that matters is the team and everybody gets behind each other no matter who's playing and who's not. We're just trying to get the win," Hines said.

Ultimately, playing baseball is what it's all about for Hines.

"Just knowing everything you do on the field isn't for you. It's for the people around you, your teammates, your family and that corresponds perfectly into the real world with your family and work," Hines said. "Just aspects of hard work and knowing it all pays off." Hines said.

Cooper Rawls / Sophomore / Pitcher

Cooper Rawls heard about the TJC program by a friend who had played here before.

"It's an honor really, especially with everything that the organization has done over the past years," Rawls said.

Rawls has been part of the TJC team for two years as a sophomore, and he knows this year is important.

"We're hungry to get the championship this year. It's a little nerve-racking, but it's also exciting," Rawls said. "I think it has a little bit more to do with we as sophomores have more on the line."

But Rawls is looking forward to continue his baseball career. He said his dream school is Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas, but had an opportunity presented to him to by Lamar University, "It's humbling," Rawls said.

If there's anything Rawls is familiar with it's being in the spotlight "Especially the first pitch of the game, it's pretty nerve-racking actually. But once I get a few pitches in I kind of get in my rhythm," Rawls said.

While he has an impressive roster of accomplishments, winning several awards in high school and also joining the All-Star team last year, Rawls feels lucky to be on this team.

"Some days it's hard to get a good practice, but when those good days come by, when we look pretty crisp, I get pretty excited for the weekend," Rawls said.

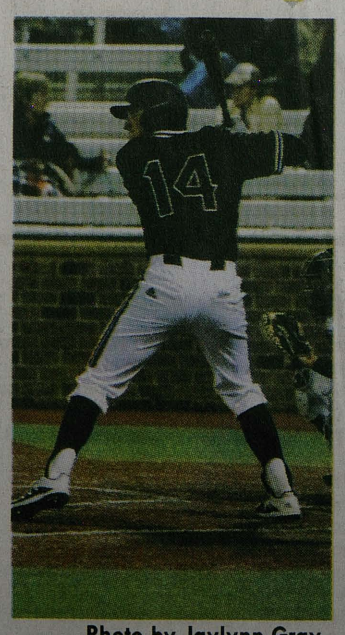


Photo by Jaylynn Gray

Dalton Davis / Third Base / Freshman

Dalton Davis is a freshman at TJC and plays third base for the Apache baseball team Wren also contacted Davis and then invited him to visit campus.

"He was awesome. I looked at the facility and the field and it was really nice for a junior college so that's what convinced me," Davis said.

Davis has been playing Baseball since he was 6 years old.

Given the opportunity to play baseball for TJC is something Davis is grateful for.

"I knew the school's history and it wins a lot, so I knew what I was getting into when I was coming in," Davis said. "I'm just trying to make the most of my opportunity."

Being a student-athlete comes with it's challenges, but Davis said it's more of a teachable moment.

"It teaches you to work hard playing at a super competitive level. It really teaches you how to prioritize your time and know what's important and work hard and try to achieve your goals," Davis said.

Something that helps get Davis through the challenges of being a student-athlete is his teammates. "When we have tough times everybody here understands each other so it makes it easier to get back up and keep going," Davis said.

However, Davis recognizes his own hard work and knows that as a freshman he has a lot of room to improve and wants to take full advantage of that.

"I visualize what I'm going to do in the game and really remind myself that I've worked hard enough and that everything that I want to happen is going to happen," he said.

Cupid's Cutouts

Story and graphics by Cecilia Kohl

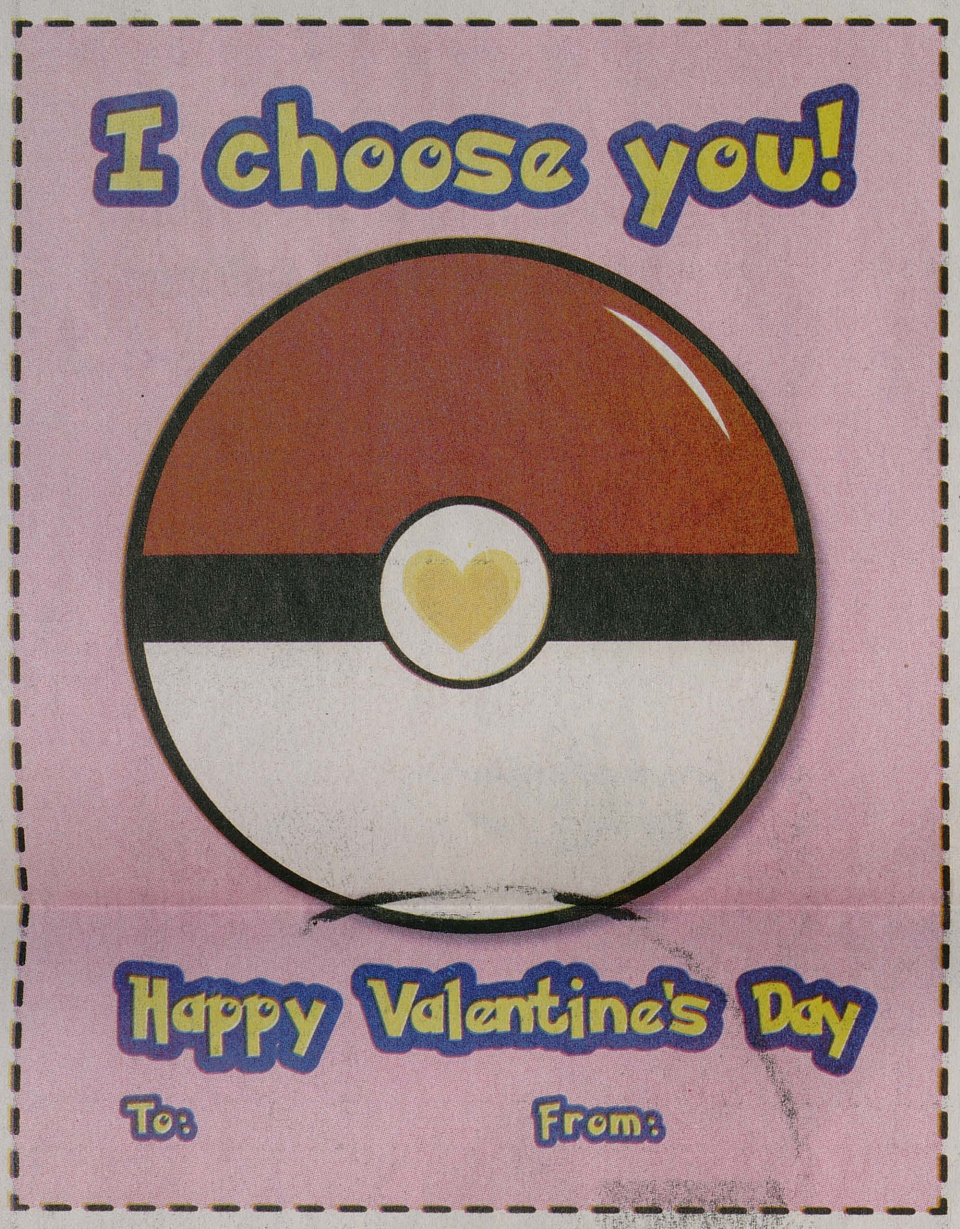
In need of a Valentine's card and broke this holiday season? Cut out The DrumBeat's very own Valentine's cards and give to friends, loved ones or someone who is self-partnered.

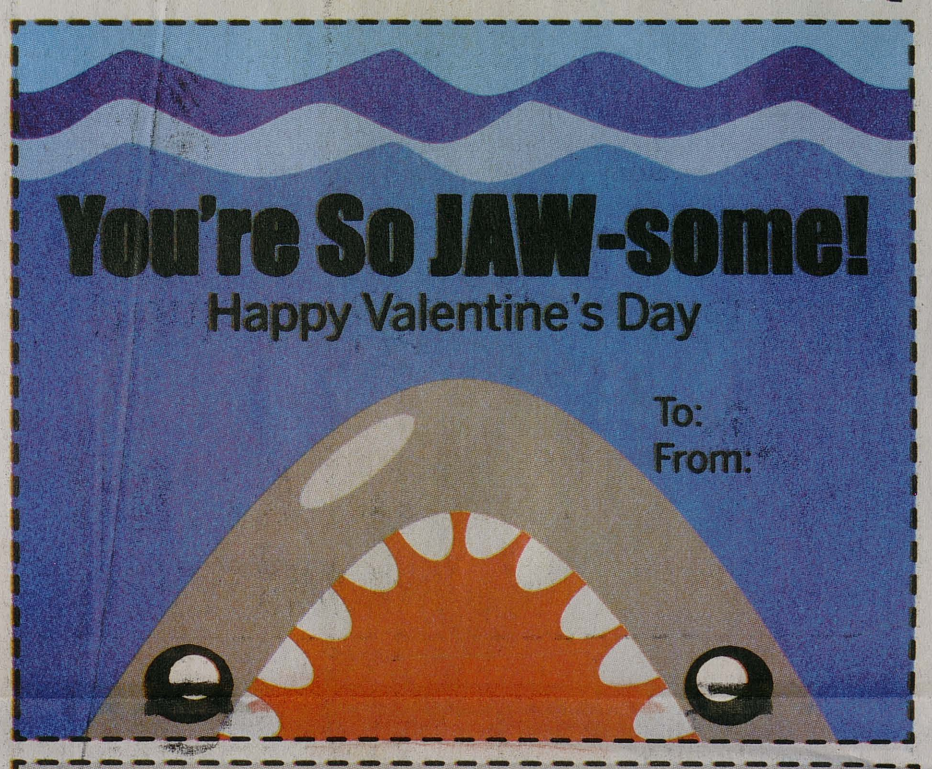
"Each year on Feb. 14, people exchange cards, candy or flowers with their special 'Valentine.' St. Valentine's Day is named for a Christian martyr and dates back to the fifth century, but has origins in the Roman holiday Lupercalia," according to thehistory.com.

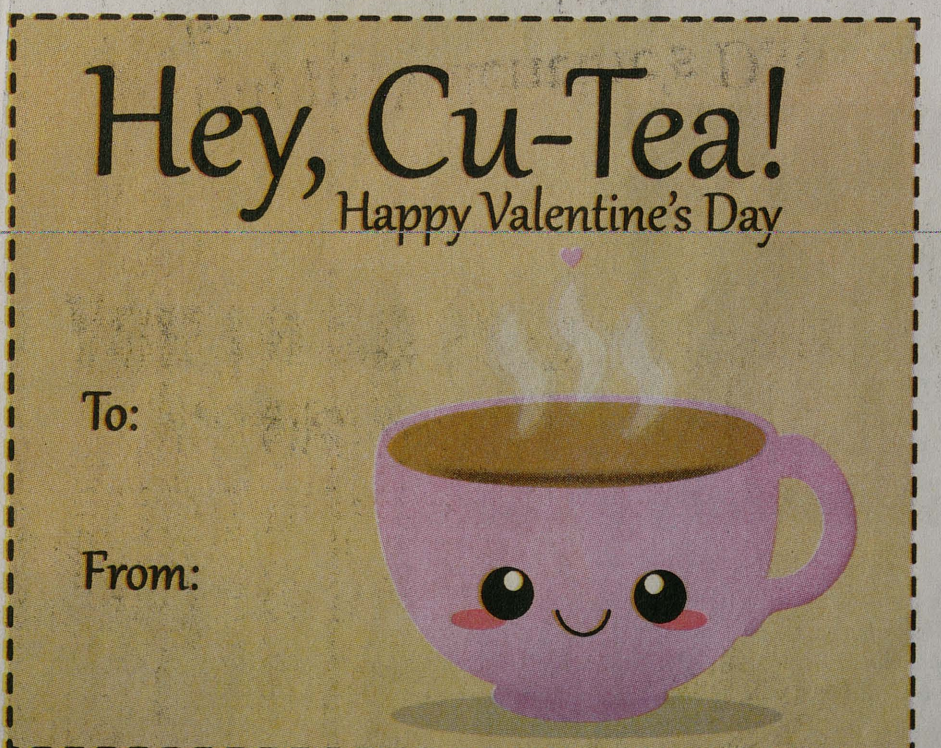
So whether or not the holiday consists of making chocolates or buying them, one less thing that needs to be done is buying a card.

Here is to you lovers and singles alike; do not let this holiday be a bummer. No baby with wings will be spreading the love, but The DrumBeat has got you covered.

Cut out the cards on this page, pass them out, paste the up, and by all means tag us on our social media pages to see who has been given a card or where they have been taped up. Share the love for all to see and feel. Use #thedrumbeat or #TJCDrumbeat.







The DrumBeat is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press and the College Media Association, 2020

FIRST COPY FREE
Additional copies may be purchased for 50 cents each by contacting the TJC journalism office. Newspaper theft is a crime. Those who violate the single copy rule may be subject to civil and criminal prosecution and/or subject to university discipline.

ADVERTISING
The DrumBeat accepts advertising at the rate of $5 per column-inch. To request a copy of *The Drumbeat*'s advertising rate card with submission guidelines, policies and deadlines call 903-510-2299.

CORRECTIONS POLICY
The DrumBeat strives to provide accurate information and welcomes comments, suggestions, and/or complaints about errors that warrant correction. Messages about news coverage can be emailed to news@thedrumbeat.com. Letters to the editor may be emailed to news@thedrumbeat.com, delivered to Jenkins 1114B or faxed to 903-510-3246.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
The DrumBeat invites its readers to share views by writing letters to the editor. All contributions will be edited for grammar, spelling, length (300 words maximum), profanity and personal attacks. All letters must include the author's name, address, telephone number and academic classification. Editors reserve the right to deny publication of any letter. Letters should be emailed to: news@thedrumbeat.com or brought to J 1114B.

© The DrumBeat 2020
All rights reserved. *The DrumBeat*, the student newspaper of Tyler Junior College, is published by journalism students biweekly during the fall and spring terms except during holidays and final exams. *The DrumBeat* is a student publication and the opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the administration, faculty, staff or the adviser.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Zac Brooks

DESIGN EDITOR
Cecilia Kohl

SOCIAL MEDIA
Gerardo Morales

PHOTO EDITOR
Cassidy Winnborn

BROADCAST NEWS
Alyssa Waite

SPORTS EDITOR
Yasmeli Alonso

ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR
Michael Bald

COPY EDITOR
Madison Heiser

FACULTY ADVISER
Kasi Dickerson